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Commission for Social Development

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Fiji:*, draft resolution**

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] and recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[5] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[6] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

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Please recycle

New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit[4] and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[8] and noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union Summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into the structures and processes of the African Union and the establishment of the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union to replace the secretariat of the New Partnership,

Remaining concerned that while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[9] and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the international initiatives related to Africa, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, co-organized by the African Union Commission, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Government of Japan,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[10]

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[7] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

[9] A/57/304, annex.

[10] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Recalls* the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, and the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010 on the theme "Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion", welcomes the third session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 November 2012, and recalls in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa, the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation, for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014), and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities, all of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013;

5. *Welcomes* the ministerial statement on the theme "Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth", adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their fifth joint meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 March 2012, and the consensus statement on the theme "Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa's development" adopted at the eighth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2012;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the implementation of the

[11] E/CN.5/2013/2.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

7. *Emphasizes* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa;

8. *Also emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Further emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

10. *Emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptably high levels of poverty and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

11. *Notes with appreciation* that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to thirty-two countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services;

12. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

13. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

14. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the

target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

15. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

16. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

17. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

18. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

19. *Recognizes* the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities;

20. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, the empowerment of women in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

21. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural

resources and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

22. *Urges* Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

23. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

24. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, which should be aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing employment and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

25. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities;

26. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and in this regard takes note of the global Education First initiative of the Secretary-General and its objectives and invites Member States to contribute to the initiative, as appropriate, including through the allocation of adequate resources;

27. *Urges* African countries and development partners to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

28. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can

contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

29. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments to take advantage of the continent's demographic transition while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

30. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

31. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa's economic and social development, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

32. *Encourages* all development partners to implement principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[12]

33. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

34. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

35. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into their development assistance programmes;

36. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of Government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability;

37. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United

[12] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

38. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

39. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

40. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

41. *Welcomes* the appointment of the new Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa;

42. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as appropriate;

43. *Invites* engagement in intergovernmental efforts to continue to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in support of Africa and to examine the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in addition to previously agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs that were made at major United Nations summits and conferences, and requests the United Nations system to assist the Economic Commission for Africa and relevant partners in ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda takes into account Africa's social development priorities;

44. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at its fifty-second session;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, and 66/286 of 23 July 2012, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social

Development, for its consideration at its fifty-second session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to the New Partnership, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.